

REMARKS

Claims 1-50 are pending in the present application. Claims 1,2,7,8 and 42 were amended and new claims 49-50 were added. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Tian US Patent Application Publication 2002/0164132 A1* and claims 4 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Tian*. *Tian* was published November 7, 2002 with a foreign priority date of May 3, 2001. This response is accompanied by signed declarations of both inventors with supporting Exhibits A and B that establish the date of invention to be no later than January 31, 2001. Therefore, the rejections of claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) and 103(a) have been respectively traversed.

Claims 7-10 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, claims 7 and 8 have been so rewritten and believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 11-41 were allowed.

Claims 42-48 were objected to for minor informalities in claim 42, but would be allowable if corrected. Specifically, in line 20 of claim 42 " $T_{mc2-soft}$ " is deleted and replaced with " $T_{mc-soft}$ ". Claim 42 has been corrected and claims 42-48 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

New independent claim 49 has been added that incorporates the substances of original claims 1 and 7. The relevant art does not teach or reasonably suggest the percentages of the multi-component glass as claimed.

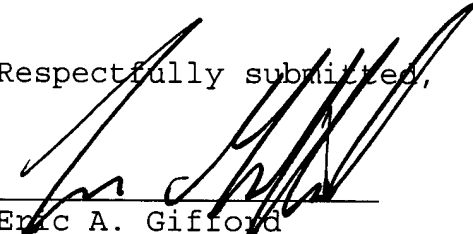
New independent claim 50 has been added that incorporates the substance of original claims 1, 2 and 5. The heating element is positioned a distance from the gap away from the silica fiber to locally heat the silica fiber thereby asymmetrically heating the multi-component glass fiber. This combination of features is not taught nor suggested in the cited prior art.

I. Conclusion

It is respectfully urged that the subject application is patentable over the cited references and is now in condition for allowance.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the below listed telephone number if, in the opinion of the Examiner, such a telephone conference would expedite or aid the prosecution and examination of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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